

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SS-20 DRC-01 RSC-01

/054 W

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R 241354Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6003

UNCLAS CARACAS 9426

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, VE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FOREIGN TRAVEL OF ADMINISTRATOR OF
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

REF: STATE 208814

1. POST FEELS THAT PROPOSED VISIT BY ADMINISTATOR BUTTERFIELD WOULD BE TIMELY AND POTENTIALLY ADVANTAGEOUS. VENEZUELA IS EMBARKING ON IMPROVEMENT OF ITS CIVIL AVIATION INFRASTTRUCTURE WITH PROJECTED EXPENDITURES OF AT LEAST \$15 MILLION. MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS HAS FAA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT AND PRESIDENTIAL PLANNING OFFICE(CORDIPLAN) HAS JUST REQUESTED SIMILAR ASSISTANCE FOR DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS.

2. HOWEVER, OCTOBER 20 IS SUNDAY, AND WITH OCTOBER 21 SCHEDULED DEPARTURE TO BRAZIL IT APPEARS THAT ADMINISTRATOR BUTTERFIELD WILL BE IN CARACAS ONLY SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING. THIS IS VERY INCONVENIENT TIME FOR VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS AND LIKELY MAKE ARRANGING SUITABLE SCHEDULED DIFFICULT. ALSO, VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS, MAY BE EXPECIALLY SENSITIVE SINCE DURING VISIT SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 1973, ALSO ON A SUNDAY, THEY WENT TO GREAT EXPENSE IN TIME AND MONEY TO HOST LAVISH DINNER, WHICH COULD NOT BE CANCELLED DUE TO LATE NOTIFICATION OF NON-ARRIVAL.

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3. EMBASSY THEREFORE, RECOMMENDS STRONGLY THAT VISIT TO

CARACAS BE SCHEDULED FOR A WEEKDAY.
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